

### Hunting Regulations

The following species may be hunted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations.

- Migratory Birds: ducks, geese, tundra swans, coots, mergansers, mourning doves, woodcock, rails, and snipe
- Upland Game: quail, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, fox, beaver, and nutria
- Big Game: deer

### Permits

You must have a valid Refuge General Hunting Permit to hunt on the refuge. Simply sign the front of this leaflet and keep it with you while hunting. Additional permits are required to hunt deer with firearms on the Pungo Unit and to hunt raccoon and opossum at night. Applications and fees are required for Pungo Deer Gun Hunt permits. See ***Special Hunts*** below for more information.

### *Area Restrictions (see map)*

No hunting is allowed

- around the Headquarters/Visitor Center/Scuppernong River Boardwalk;
- the Pungo Shop complex;
- the refuge portion of New Lake;
- the refuge lands between Shore Drive and Lake Phelps;
- that portion of the Pinner Tract east of SR 1105.

Wounded or dead game may be retrieved from closed areas with consent from a refuge employee, but no weapons may be taken into the closed areas.

Only non-toxic shot may be possessed while hunting west of Evans road, except that slugs, buckshot, and muzzleloader ammunition containing lead may be used in this area for deer hunting.

The Pungo Unit is closed to all hunting except for limited deer hunting opportunities. Deer may be hunted with bow and arrow on the Pungo Unit during all State season dates prior to December 1, except during the special Pungo Deer Gun Hunts. See ***Special Hunts*** below for dates and other information on these special hunts.

### *Season Restrictions*

Raccoon and opossum hunting are not allowed during, five days before, and five days after the state bear seasons.

Beaver and nutria may be taken only with firearms and only in areas open to hunting other game animals with firearms.

### *Hours*

The refuge is open during daylight hours only, except that

- hunters may be in hunting areas up to 1 1/2 hours before legal shooting time and 1 1/2 hours after legal shooting time except on the special Pungo Deer Gun Hunts;
- on the Pungo Deer Gun Hunts, hunters are allowed in the hunting area one hour before and one hour after legal shooting time; and
- raccoon and opossum hunters may hunt on the refuge at night with a special permit which can be obtained from Refuge Headquarters.

### *Weapons*

Firearms are prohibited on the refuge except for authorized hunting activities.

All weapons must be unloaded and encased or dismantled while being transported by a motorized vehicle (including boats and ATVs) under power.

Deer may be hunted with shotguns, muzzleloaders, and bow an arrow only, but see ***Area Restrictions*** for special regulations pertaining to the Pungo Unit. Upland game may be hunted with shotguns and .22 caliber rim-fire rifles only. Disabled hunters possessing the appropriate State permit may also use a crossbow.

### *Hunting Dogs*

Running deer, bear, wild turkey, and other wildlife with dogs is prohibited. However dogs can be used to point and retrieve migratory game birds and upland game and to chase rabbits. The dogs must be under your control at all times and you cannot possess buckshot or slugs while hunting with dogs.

Pocosin Lakes NWR is an important area for the reintroduction and recovery of the endangered red wolf. Several wolf packs roam the refuge and we have an active management program that often includes trapping wolves. The traps used are rubber jawed to minimize the chance of injury to target and non-target animals. If you or your dog encounters one of these traps, please report it to Refuge Headquarters.

### *Vehicles*

All off-road vehicular travel is prohibited.

All weapons must be unloaded and encased or dismantled while being transported by a motorized vehicle (including boats and ATVs) under power.

Blocking gates, roads, trails, or other travel ways is prohibited.

ATVs may be operated on designated ATV trails only to transport hunters and their equipment to scout and hunt. ATVs can be operated on these trails only when the ATV trail and surrounding area is open to hunting, one week prior to the area opening for hunting, and on Sundays during the hunting season. Operating ATVs off designated ATV trails is prohibited.

### *Miscellaneous*

Distributing and hunting over, or by the aid of any type of bait (food, salt, other mineral, or other substance that lures or attracts animals) is prohibited.

You must wear 500 square inches (3250 cm2) of fluorescent orange material above the waist, which is visible from all sides, while hunting upland game and while hunting deer in areas open to hunting with firearms.

Youth hunters (under age 16) must be under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter over the age of 21. A licensed hunter over the age of 21 may supervise one big game youth hunter, or up to two migratory bird or upland game youth hunters at a time.

Only biodegradable flagging tape may be used on the refuge to mark trails, stand locations, etc. Plastic flagging tape, paint, reflectors, dots, glow tacks, and other materials are prohibited.

Only portable tree stands are allowed on the refuge and they must be removed at the end of each day's hunt (except for the Pungo Deer Gun Hunts; see ***Special Hunts***). Using nails, wire, screws, and bolts to attach a tree stand, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter (including lag screw type steps) is prohibited.

Only portable blinds and temporary blinds constructed of natural materials can be used for migratory bird hunting. However, cutting live vegetation on the refuge is prohibited. You must remove portable blinds at the end of each day's hunt.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Camping, open fires, and littering are prohibited.

Commercial guiding on the refuge requires a Special Use Permit.

All hunters using the refuge are subject to inspections of licenses, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles, and their contents during compliance checks by refuge and state officers.

### *Special Hunts*

#### 1. Pungo Deer Gun Hunts

The special, two-day Pungo Deer Gun Hunts for this year are September 26-27, October 3-4, 9-10, 17-18, 24-25. A Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit is required to participate in these special hunts. Permits are limited to one per person and only two hundred permits will be issued.

To obtain a permit, you must fully complete a Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Application form and return it to the refuge before the drawing on August 20, 2003. Send only one application per person. Anyone submitting multiple application forms will not be included in the drawing. Up to five individuals may apply as a party by enclosing all applications attached together in one envelope marked "party hunt". Application forms may be requested by phone or mail, or may be picked up at Refuge Headquarters in Columbia, NC. Request application forms and send completed applications to:

Pocosin Lakes NWR  
P.O. Box 329  
205 S. Ludington Drive  
Columbia, NC 27925  
Phone: 252/796-3004

Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must send a \$12.50 recreation fee before a Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit will be issued.

All refuge hunting regulations apply to the Pungo Deer Gun Hunts with the following exceptions. Permitted hunters may enter the Pungo Unit up to one hour prior to legal shooting time and must be out of the area by one hour after legal shooting time. Hunters with a valid Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit may install a portable tree stand the day before the start of their hunt and leave it until the end of the second day of their two-day hunt. Stands left overnight must be tagged with the hunter's name, address, and telephone number. Any deer harvested under

a Pungo Deer Gun Hunt Permit must be taken to the deer check station located at the Pungo Shop for harvest reporting and data collection.

#### 2. Nighttime Raccoon and Opossum Hunting

To hunt raccoon and opossum at night, request a special Raccoon and Opossum Nighttime Hunting Permit at Refuge Headquarters in Columbia, NC. There is no fee for this permit. Raccoon and opossum hunting are not allowed during, five days before, and five days after the state bear seasons.

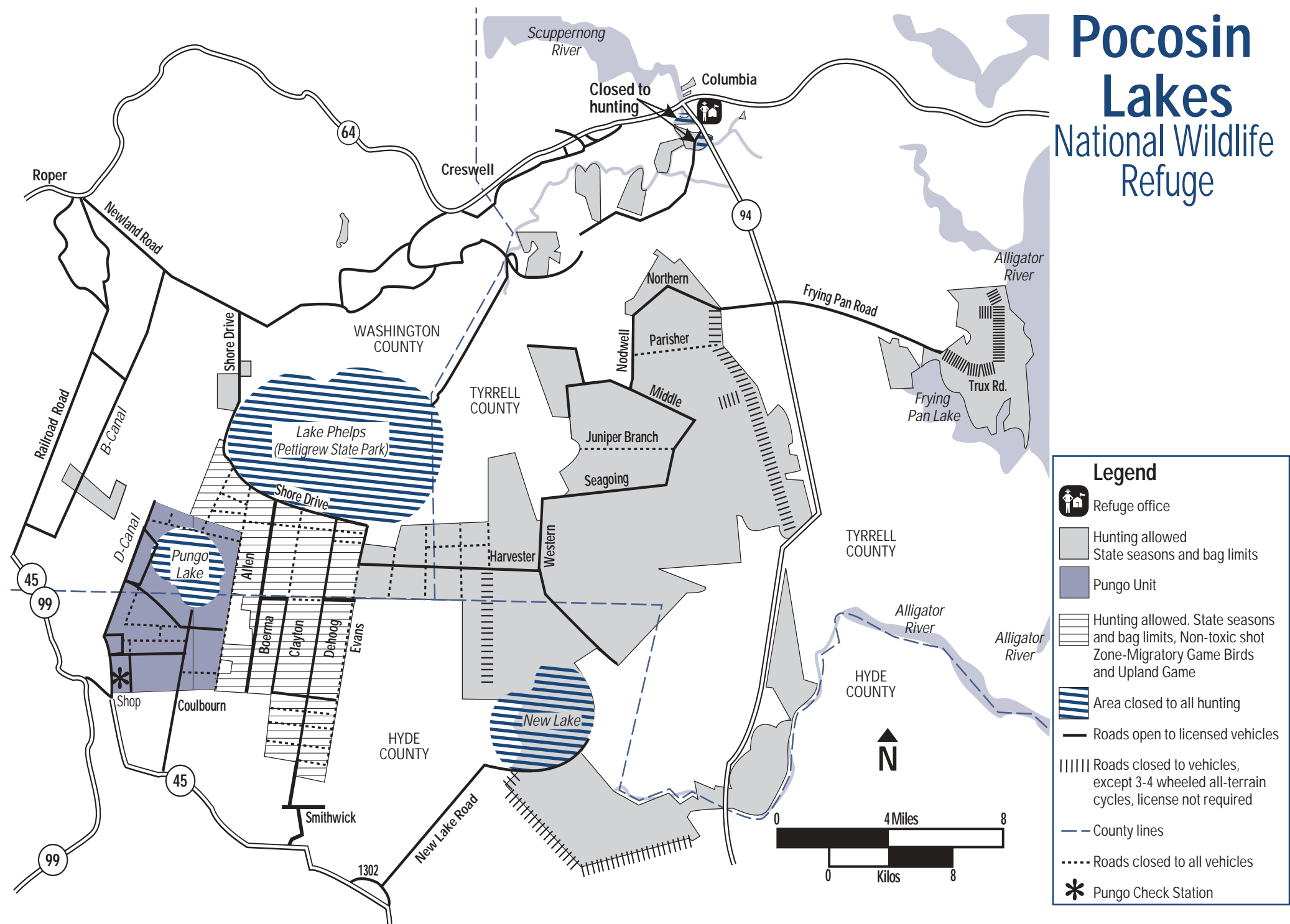
### *Fishing Regulations*

Fish may be taken on the refuge in accordance with applicable State regulations and the following.

Fishing is allowed on Pungo and New Lakes from March 1 through November 1 only. However, Pungo Lake and the entire Pungo Unit are closed to fishing during the special Pungo Deer Gun Hunts in late September and October (see ***Special Hunts***).

Only bank fishing is allowed in the Pungo Unit, boats are not allowed.

Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset only.



Pocosin Lakes  
National Wildlife Refuge  
P. O. Box 329  
205 South Ludington Drive  
Columbia, NC 27925  
252/796 3004  
<http://Pocosinlakes.fws.gov>



March 2003

# Pocosin Lakes

*National Wildlife Refuge  
Hunting and Fishing  
Regulations 2003-2004*



1 9 0 3 - 2 0 0 3

**General Hunting Permit**  
The signing of this leaflet validates it as your general refuge hunting permit and it must be in your possession while participating in all authorized hunts.

I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hunter's Signature